

May 1, 1973

(End of Belt #18)

(Begin Belt #19)

banking system and let the bankers do as they want to do. The principal proponent from Omaha says this bill will not affect 90% of the banks in the State. If that's the case, I say 90% of the banks in the State should be allowed to be heard and be allowed an attempt to work out something they feel in their own conscience is not going to ultimately destroy them and their community. After the bill stalled in committee, it finally was killed. It was killed on a Tuesday afternoon at 4:00 and in less than 18 hours I was given notice we had another committee meeting to raise the bill. Now I suppose there have been bills killed and raised in committee before but I think we set a track record. This thing didn't even get a night's sleep. I don't know the exact occasion for its being raised. Probably little David descended from the golden towers or maybe the Lord sent the Holy Spirit to breathe life back into Lazarus, but whatever it was he was there the next morning with full Omaha support and I say let's leave this to the independent bankers to work out with these few large banks who they feel pose a very genuine threat and consider this later. Now I asked Senator Schmit to do this, he's reluctant to do so. Accordingly, I would ask that this body move to indefinitely postpone this bill.

SPEAKER: Motion is to indefinitely postpone. I've had several lights up here I think I should follow them. Senator Chambers has been asking for the floor and then some others. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, Senator Murphy gave a very enlightening presentation and as peculiar as it may seem, I find myself on the same side of the question that he is on. I think this bill ought to be indefinitely postponed. Some of the lobbying tactics were used I resent personally. This takes me somewhat away from the merits of the bill but it throws some light in my mind as to the true intent of it. They had people from my district to write letters to me supporting this bill. The letters were written in almost the same terminology. The statement was made that for the convenience of people in my district, they wanted me to vote for this bill in order that an additional teller window could be open for their banking convenience. Yet not one banker or anybody representing a bank that I talked to is interested in opening another teller window at any particular bank. These people were deceived and I may look like a fool, I may in some people's minds sound like a fool, but I assure you that I'm not a fool. And if I'm to be tricked, the trick has to be a little more ingenious than that particular tactic of lobbying. As Senator Murphy pointed out, this bill can be used to destroy smaller banks. When I look at some of the tactics and the statements made about various bankers in Omaha as to why a bank that would help serve the black community should not be granted a charter and I find these same people in favor of this bill, it is too large a load for me to swallow. So Senator Murphy, although I don't wear a hat, if I had one my hat would be off to you for your very good presentation and I support his motion to kill this bill.

SPEAKER: Senator Richard Lewis.

SENATOR R. LEWIS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I listened with a great deal of interest to Senator Schmit's comments about all the debate that had occurred with the bankers and among the bankers and it's still occurring and I'm getting a lot of phone calls today and I've tried to explain to these people that perhaps the Legislature is not the place to resolve this or for us to arbitrate this thing if they can't settle their